REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 – 2 to overcome the rejections and further specify the embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claim. The claim is now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 – 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bäbler et al. (US 5,075,195), hereinafter Bäbler, in view of Harrison (US 6,852,948).

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not obvious over the cited reference. More specifically, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to further specify additional features that are not disclosed or suggested by Bäbler or Harrison. The amended Claim 1 is directed to a marking method including the following steps (emphasis added):

(1) A substrate of an object to be marked is made of a PTFE and a filler in the PTFE is interlaced fibers;

(2) A laser beam is irradiated onto a marking position on the object to be marked to loosen the interlaced fibers adjacent to the surface of the PTFE and to fluff the irradiated surface of the PTFE (see Fig. 1; the PTFE is a laser beam sensitive material);

(3) The irradiated surface of the PTFE exhibits a color tone different from that of a non-irradiated surface of the PTFE to form a marking with a white-based color (see above passages in connection with Fig. 1); and

(4) A marking speed of 300 to 400 mm/s and a laser beam power of 2.4 to 7.2 W are set in an irradiating condition of a laser beam.

In addition, Claim 2 has been amended to directed to a product in accordance with the present invention that has the following features(emphasis added):

(5) A substrate of an object to be marked is made of a PTFE and a filler in the PTFE is interlaced fibers;

(6) A laser beam is irradiated onto a marking position on the object to be marked to loosen the interlaced fibers adjacent to the surface of the PTFE and to fluff the irradiated surface of the PTFE (see Fig. 1; PTFE is a laser beam sensitive material); and

(7) The irradiated surface of the PTFE exhibits a color tone different from that of a non-irradiated surface of the PTFE to form a marking with a white-based color (see above passages in connection with Fig. 1).

It is respectfully submitted that Bäbler does not disclose or suggest the above features of (1) to (7). Although the method of Bäbler discloses that the plastics object includes a PTFE (polyterafluoethylene), the plastics object contains a molybdenum disculfide as a radiation-sensitive additive. When the molybdenum disulfide is subject to irradiation of a laser beam, it changes a light reflectance to form a marking on the object. In other words, the PTFE is Bäbler does not serve as a laser beam sensitive material. Bäbler neither disclose nor suggest that the surface of PTFE is fluffed by irradiation of the laser beam and that a marking speed of 300 to 400 mm/s and a laser beam power of 2.4 to 7.2 W are set in an irradiation condition of a laser beam as required in the amended Claims 1 – 2.

In addition, according to Harrison, the object to be marked does not include a substrate of the PTFE, in which fibers are interlaced as a filler. Accordingly, the irradiation condition of a laser beam cannot be applied directly to the object to be marked in the present invention.

Therefore, the embodiments of the present invention as claimed are different from Bäbler. The newly presented claims are not anticipated by Bäbler over Harrison and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Date: April 3, 2007
(202) 638-6666
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Atty. Dkt. No.: P69976US0

By_____
John C. Holman
Registration No. 22,769